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# Basque terrorist sought in attack on Nicaragua rebel

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Police investigators, noting striking facial similarities, believe that a man suspected in last week's assassination attempt on Nicaraguan rebel leader Eden Pastora is a 37-year-old Basque sought by police as a terrorist.



Pastora

Costa Rican police circulated a picture of the dark-eyed Basque, identified in a March anti-terrorist warning poster as Jose Miguel Lujua Gorostiola. The poster had nine names in all, including five Basque guerrilla leaders deported by the French government early this year to Panama.

The five were under detention in Panama in March, but were sent to Cuba along with two others in early May. Spanish authorities circulated the photos before the fate of the detainees in Panama had been resolved.

Costa Rican police, while refusing to officially identify Lujua as the man who posed as a Danish photographer during a May 30 bombing attack on Pastora, said they strongly suspect the Basque and the photographer are the same man.

"There are some clear facial similarities," said Francisco Ruiz, spokesman for the Organization for Judicial Investigation, the country's top police agency.

A plastic explosive meant for Pastora, which tore through a press conference just inside the Nicaraguan border, killed an American reporter, a Costa Rican television cameraman and one of Pastora's rebel followers.

The explosion also wounded 27 journalists and rebels.

A man posing as a Danish photographer traveled to the conference by dugout canoe with the other journalists. Carrying a passport stolen in Copenhagen in 1980 from a Danish citizen named Per Hansen, he claimed to work for a nonexistent photo agency.

The impostor escaped the bombing without injury, hurriedly left the jungle conference site on the first rebel boat evacuating wounded, returned to his San Jose hotel and dropped from sight.

Investigators, who have issued an international arrest warrant, believe he fled the country, and unconfirmed reports suggest he passed through Miami on May 31 or June 1.

A U.S. Embassy official said that the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service and Customs Service agents in the United States were participating in the investigation. FBI agents contacted in Washington and Miami, however, initially expressed no knowledge of the case.

Minor Calvo, director of the Office for Judicial Investigation, has been in Washington attending an FBI course in investigative techniques since the case broke last week, and is not expected to return for ten days, according to Judicial Investigation spokesman spokesman Ruiz.

U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor Jr. said in an interview that in "terrorist-type matters" the United States would normally involve itself in the investigation "through the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, if it were asked for."

Winsor said he believed, however, that the CIA was "not directly" involved in this investigation.

## Spoke perfect Spanish

U.S. Embassy officials by Thursday had stopped calling the suspect "Hansen" or "the impostor" and were referring to him as Lujua.

Journalists Thursday reviewed taped interviews and video pictures of the impostor, who — although claiming to be a Dane — spoke no Danish.

A local radio station talked with him at a hospital the morning after the bombing, and the man said he did not know what had caused the explosion:

"I was on the stairs, and it knocked me to the ground," he said. He did not come under suspicion until several days after the interview.

In speaking for the radio station, the impostor demonstrated perfect grammatical Spanish, with an occasional hint of an accent linked by native speakers to northern Spain, Colombia or highland Ecuador.

In the interview, the impostor claimed to be working for a Swedish film crew. Peter Torbjornsson, director of the crew, confirmed that the man had traveled with the Swedes but said he had no professional relationship with them. He said the impostor's radio remarks showed he was using the film crew as a cover to an extent unknown to its members.

Remarkable video footage filmed by Costa Rican television reporter Jorge Quiros before he died in the bombing shows the impostor boarding one of the rebel canoes the day of the attack.

He hands a metal attache case, wrapped in plastic — which investigators now believe contained the explosives — to a rebel for stowage. Later footage shows the impostor traveling in a boat, talking and laughing with Linda Frazier, the American reporter killed in the blast hours later.

Quiros, camera rolling, entered the riverbank warehouse where Pastora was waiting and filmed the impostor leaving the building, moments before the blast. Quiros' final shot before the explosion that killed him focuses on Pastora.

Spanish police alerted Costa Rican authorities in March that nine Basque terrorists at large in Central America might travel to Costa Rica. At that point, the fate of those Basques held in Panama had not been decided. Lujua was one of the nine who appeared on the anti-terrorist warning poster, but he was not among the five in Panama.

All nine men were identified as Basque terrorists belonging to the separatist organization Basque Homeland And Liberty, known by its Basque-language acronym ETA.

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